

KARO-ECHO Newsletter 02-07-2017

The KARO ECHO Net meets each Thursday evening immediately after the West Contra costa RACES Net but never before 1900 local time on 146.415 MHz Simplex. The West Costa County RACES Net meets each Thursday on 145.110 MHz repeater (TX down 600 Hz with PL 82.5) at 1845 local time.

The event for this week's net will be a poll of all stations as to their present status/capability:

- A) Do you have a handheld radio?
- B) Is it VHF/UHF capable?
- C) At least one spare battery pack,
- D An outdoor antenna,
- E) A portable antenna (mag-mount, collinear with portable mast
- F) Mobile capability.

KARO-ECHO meets at 7:30 PM on the second Monday of each month at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington, CA 94707 in the upper East Room. Ample parking is available.

Please visit the KARO-ECHO WIKI at HYPERLINK "<https://karo-echo.net/>" <https://karo-echo.net/> for useful documents and announcements. Thank you to Wayne, KK6ZPL, for creating the Wiki.

KARO-ECHO Meeting Feb 12, 2017

The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 PM followed by the approval of the Minutes. Additions to the agenda will be entertained after the proposed agenda is read. Email propoasad items to Hal, KK6NDF. Then old business, followed by new business, and followed by the monthly program, a drill, practice, and/or education.

Please see the January 8, 2017 meeting minutes attached as a PDF document

Possible Agenda Items:

Have the KARO-ECHO executive committee appoint a Thursday evening **Net Manager** (with the approval of the Karo-Echo Emergency Coordinator) to manage the NCS assignments and net procedures. Lacking such, the Emergency Coordinator shall assume this responsibility. The EC should be emailed the total check-in count, list of station check-ins, and the amount of formal written traffic that was passed during the net.

Open dates for NCS can be announced by the **Net Manager** or lacking one, by the EC or

AEC at each net. Example: "We need NCS volunteers for NCS for the following dates, Feb 2, May 7, April 16. Etc. Are there any takers please?"

Appoint a **Newsletter Manager to maintain a monthly email roster** and send a monthly newsletter to all members and check-ins posting the KARO-ECHO minutes and all relevant KARO-ECHO bulletins/announcements. All NCS should have an outdoor antenna at the minimum and be located in El Cerrito or Kensington.

A Review of the radio, antenna, and emergency power status of KARO-ECHO equipment installed at public agencies and elsewhere led by Hal, KK6NDF. We need to **establish site coordinators** to maintain these stations as Gerry and Marian have been doing this work by themselves for many years. Hal has created an Excel maintenance log.

A discussion how these locations will serve our strategic interests in the event of normal communications disruption. What are the expectations of the EOC/EMS, CERT, and other clients? (Lead by Kevin and Hal).

PR: How to reconnect with existing hams in EC/K who have left KARO-ECHO and/or have been turned off by KARO-ECHO dropping the ball in the past. A new mailer/brochure may be in order announcing turning over our new leaf? Lead by Don, NI6a.

A model interface between GMRS, FRS, and Ham radio to facilitate CERT inter and intra-area comms and comms to the EOC. A walk through on how to do with a brief review of Kensington 6 FRS Drill and Berkeley CERT's GMRS repeater system as modeled by BeCertainn (see HYPERLINK "<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/becertainn>" <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/becertainn>) who has a solar powered GMRS repeater system in Berkeley designed to support Berkeley CERT. They have a weekly Net on Tuesdays at 7:30 PM and this newsletter. Something similar could be set up in K/EC. We can learn from this group and customize a similar system for K/EC if the blocks use FRS and the ACs titrate and filter the FRS block traffic to a single CERT AREA GMRS dual GMRS/FRS operator to facilitate long haul traffic. We might or might not need a GMRS repeater. However if one is desired, perhaps Fire Station 72 or one at Marian's house would cover all of K/EC easily (50 watts with a high gain antenna)? But having a high altitude repeater can have its drawbacks as well. This can be discussed. If GMRS (radio and antenna) were set up at the EOC, then the hams could be used for intra-agency and inter-agency backup comms for K/EC, mobile, portable, shadow, and long distance traffic. Given our present circumstances, I suggest that we think this out. How K/EC CERT as an "organization" will adopt such a plan is anyone's guess. Discussion led by Don.

Education: A review of the first 7 chapters of the KARO-ECHO Field Operations Handbook

Recent Events, Bulletins, and Announcements

Hal, KK6NDF ran a successful CERT FRS drill that covered almost all of Kensington 6. More drills are planned so that all blocks will be able to talk interference free within each block and within the Area to the area Incident Command Post (ICP). More training is planned. The inter-area and EOC interface needs more strategic planning.

The tour led by Battalion Chief, Kevin Janes was a great success. We visited the ham setups at FS 71, 72, 65, the EOC, the KCC, and Harding School. All stations were well maintained (thanks to Gerry and Marian). We need to **establish site coordinators** to maintain these stations as Gerry and Marian have been doing this work by themselves for many years. Hal has created an Excel maintenance log.

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email Don, HYPERLINK "mailto:sahajyoga@yahoo.com" sahajyoga@yahoo.com

Please see these three Attachments:

Please find 3 MS Word (.doc) attachments and one PDF:

- 1) The KARO-ECHO **Comm Plan**
- 2) The KARO-ECHO **Net Protocol and Net Log** for Net Control Stations
- 3) The KARO-ECHO **January 8, 2018 Minutes** (PDF)
- 4) **This Newsletter** in MS Word format